



**USAID**  
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# KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## USAID Newsletter

January-February 2012

### General News

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**House Democracy Partnership Extends Offer of Partnership to Kyrgyz Parliament.** The House Democracy Partnership of the U.S. Congress has partnered with Kyrgyzstan's Parliament, the Jogorku Kenesh. Speaker Asilbek Zheenbekov and the parliamentary faction leaders welcomed a Congressional delegation led by Congressman David Dreier on February 22. The Speaker with the recommendation of the International Relations Committee accepted the invitation of the U.S. Congress to the partnership. The House Democracy Partnership will sponsor three or four seminars per year on subjects such as oversight and committee operations and hold an annual exchange of U.S. Congressmen to meet with their Kyrgyz counterparts. The partnership will be supported by USAID under its Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Strengthening Project. USAID will also support Parliamentarians and staff to attend House Democracy Partnership events in Washington, DC.

### Economic Development

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**Increasing Agricultural Yields in Volatile Communities.** Following the violence of June 2010, residents reported an increase of ethnic tensions among the nearly 24,000 residents of the 10 multi-ethnic villages that the Uvam canal serves in southern Kyrgyzstan. Prior to the 2011 spring planting season, USAID/OTI partnered with the Uvam Waters Users Association, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Food Program (WFP), to excavate and rehabilitate 6 km of the Uvam canal in Kara-Suu district. The project was designed to reduce competition over limited water resources and mounting tensions among the multiethnic communities. Farmers reported increased yields of 25% for corn, 30% for wheat and 66%

for sunflower crops as a result of the project. Local leaders also reported that in the 2011 farming season, farmers were able to irrigate 840 more hectares of land than the previous year. *Photo: Local labor was used to rehabilitate the irrigation system in Kara-Suu district, Osh province*



**Development of Guarantee Funds in Kyrgyzstan.** On December 16, 2011, USAID's Local Development Program (LDP) conducted a conference on the development of guarantee funds as a tool for supporting small and medium sized enterprises in the Kyrgyz Republic. The conference shared practical information with leaders of local governments, the national government and local banks. In addition, the conference promoted the establishment of new guarantee funds in several municipalities in Kyrgyzstan. During its first year, the Local Development Program launched Guarantee Funds in Jalal-Abad, Kara Balta, and Cholpon-Ata. Since July 2011, more than 10 guarantees have been issued

to facilitate business and employment at small and medium sized enterprises in these cities. The funds will facilitate access to finance for entrepreneurs by reducing the required collateral. The guarantee funds prioritize support for manufacturing operations, agricultural processing, services and trade. *Photo: Malik-Aidar Abakirov, Finance Specialist, USAID Local Development Program gives interview for NTS TV channel on USAID assistance in developing guarantee funds*



**Social Dialogue in the Textile and Garment Industry.** On January 31, USAID, through its implementing partner the Solidarity Center, organized a conference on "Social Partnership and Tripartite Dialogue in the Textile and Light Industry." The Solidarity Center invited representatives of ministries, trade unions, representatives of the textile and garment industry, and international organizations to discuss poverty, improved wages, inequality, informal employment, and providing safe working conditions. *Photo: (left to right) USAID/Kyrgyzstan Representative Carey Gordon, USAID Project Management Specialist Erkin Konurbaev, and Solidarity Center Representative Stanislaw Cieneuch*

## Health and Education



**Photo Exhibition to Prevent the Spread of HIV and TB.** The USAID Dialogue on HIV and TB Project held a photo exhibition *We Need Dialogue* devoted to World AIDS Day on January 17, at the Kyrgyz National Museum of Visual Arts. The photo exhibition *We Need Dialogue* highlighted the work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working with most-at-risk populations (MARPs) in Kyrgyzstan to reduce the spread of HIV and tuberculosis. The photos show every day dialogue taking place among MARPs and NGO workers, MARPs and health providers, MARPs and militia. It was also a unique opportunity to see beneficiaries of HIV and TB prevention programs and their living

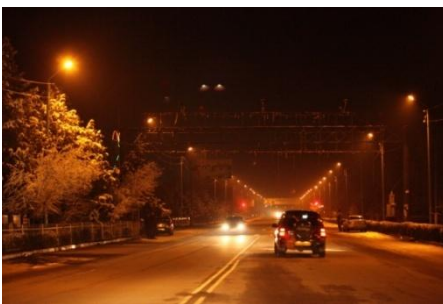
conditions. *Photo: Exhibition attendees.*



**Multi-language Books Celebrate Diversity of the Kyrgyz Republic.** On January 19, U.S. Ambassador Pamela L. Spratlen participated in a ceremony with the Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, USAID, and the Aga Khan Foundation for a joint project to reprint 90,000 copies of dual-language (Kyrgyz-Uzbek, Kyrgyz-Russian, Kyrgyz-Tajik, and Kyrgyz-English) books for children with USAID/OTI funding. The Ministry of Education and Science will assist in distributing the books among 2,191 schools throughout the country. In 2011, books were distributed to 25 public libraries, 389 school libraries and 45 kindergarten libraries in Osh and Jalal-Abad provinces. USAID/OTI is also supporting the Aga Khan

Foundation and the Kyrgyz Academy of Education to develop and distribute 4,382 copies of toolkits for teachers to facilitate the use of the books in the classroom. *Photo: Kindergartners enjoy the colorful multilingual children's books*

## Democracy and Governance



**Improving Security in Jalal-Abad through Light.** In December 2011, U.S. Ambassador Pamela L. Spratlen, the Jalalabad Province Governor, and the Jalalabad City Mayor commemorated the completion of a joint project to install new street lights in Jalalabad City. This effort reestablished street light service for around 79,000 residents along 27.7 km of roads in four districts. The Ministry of Interior's local office reported in January that it has already observed a 5% reduction in crime in the city since the installation. The province prosecutor's office also commented that the project has contributed to an increased sense of security among

residents and will lead to rebuilding ties among the cities' various ethnicities. The mayor said that as a direct result of the lights, he has noticed more weddings and parties during evening hours. Restaurants, shops, and service enterprises are open longer resulting in greater revenues and, in turn, greater tax income for the local authorities. *Photo: Jalalabad City illuminated with street lights*





**Rehabilitation of Youth Center in Tokmok.** On December 16, local government officials, youth leaders and the local NGO *Global* hosted a ceremony to celebrate the reopening of Smart Club, a youth center located in Tokmok city. USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) provided financial support for infrastructure improvements and upcoming programming activities. Many youth are at risk of exploitation from forces that breed ethnically motivated violence. The center is planning a series of wintertime activities, including leadership and computer technology trainings, hiking and camping excursions, and discussion groups that will foster social tolerance and cross-ethnic understanding, that will reduce the potential for conflict. *Photo: Teenagers accessing the internet in the Smart Club*



**Celebrating Diversity on the Stage in the Jalal-Abad City.** On December 6, the Barpy theater troupe staged the opening performance of a USAID/OTI-funded play *Neighbors* in the newly restored Barpy Theater in Jalal-Abad City. The play examines the divide between ethnicities in the country through a light-hearted, yet compelling lens. Both the lead ethnic Uzbek and Kyrgyz actors nominated by the Barpy Drama Theater, were awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Ministry of Culture for their contributions to the cultural life of Kyrgyzstan. *Photo: Uzbek and Kyrgyz actors performing "Neighbors" in Jalal-Abad*



**Restoration of Community Sports Center in Mady.** On December 21, USAID, Osh province government officials, and residents of Mady celebrated the reopening of the newly rehabilitated Youth Sports Center. The rehabilitation initiative was led by the local non-governmental organization Erbol with support from USAID. In the aftermath of the civil disturbances in June 2010, the lack of public resources for improving community sports facilities jeopardized access to community spaces for multiethnic activities. To open access, USAID's Office of

Transition Initiatives (OTI) provided a grant to renovate the Youth Sports Center by replacing the wooden floor, installing new windows, and strengthening the ceiling frame. Erbol will use the newly refurbished sports facility to create a community based athletics program that will help to unite Mady's ethnic communities. *Photo 1: Local labor restoring the community sports center. Photo 2: Youth playing in the new center.*




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### For more information about USAID in Kyrgyzstan contact:

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